

Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED SEWER SERVICE FEE INCREASE

Date, Time, and Place of Public Hearing

On May 24, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the Board Meeting Room, 575 Administration Drive, Room 102A, Santa Rosa, California, the Board of Directors (Board) of the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (District) will conduct a public hearing to consider increasing the annual sewer service fee to be collected on account of sewage collection and treatment services provided by the sewer system of the District to property within the District.

Property Owner Obligation

The fee will be imposed on each parcel upon which is located one or more structures which are connected to the system and the fee will be collected on the general property tax bill administered by Sonoma County. Payment of the fee will be the responsibility of the owner of the parcel.

What the Fee is for and How the Funds Collected Will be Used

The fee is imposed for two purposes: (a) to finance the ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the system and, (b) to pay the capital replacement program costs of the system. The purpose of the capital replacement program is to provide for the long-term replacement of system facilities as they wear out.

Amount of Proposed Fee Increase and Method of Calculating the Increased Fee

Effective July 1, 2011 the District proposes to increase the fee to \$732 per year per "equivalent single-family dwelling" (ESD), an increase of \$38, or 5.5% versus current year. A standard single-family home constitutes one ESD. Parcels which have other uses (for example, apartments and commercial buildings) will be assigned a number of ESDs using standard equivalency factors which estimate the probable quantity and quality of sewage effluent normally generated by such uses in comparison to a single-family home.

The increased fee has been calculated by dividing the annual costs of providing wastewater treatment and collection service by the estimated number of ESDs to arrive at the fee per ESD of \$732, and for parcels having more than one ESD assigned, the fee is calculated by multiplying the number of ESDs assigned to the parcel times \$732. The draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12 describes the total annual expenses in detail and is available for review at the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, c/o the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency), 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California 95403, and the Sonoma County Regional Libraries in Santa Rosa (Main & Northwest), Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Guerneville, Sebastopol, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Rincon Valley, Sonoma, and Forestville (El Molino High School).

Further Information Available Prior to the Hearing

At the hearing, the Board will consider adoption of an ordinance which will establish the increased fee. Copy of the ordinance is on file and available for review at the Agency, 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. In addition, the following persons may be contacted at the Agency at (707) 526-5370 for further information and/or obtaining copies of the draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12:

Manuel Olvera, Engineering Technician III
Candi Bryon, Department Analyst

Property Owner Protest Procedure

This notice has been mailed to you because records of the Sonoma County Assessor list you as an owner of one or more parcels within the District which will be subject to the fee while connected to the system. In the event you have sold property you may have owned within the District, please send this notice to the new owner.

Either prior to or at the public hearing, property owners may submit written protests respecting the fee. At the public hearing, the Board will consider all written protests which have been received by the prescribed deadline. In order to be considered, a written protest must be made on the attached form. Only one protest will be counted per parcel. Only protests signed by the current owner(s) will be allowed and must be received no later than the following deadlines:

- If submitted by mail, they must be received (NOT postmarked) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2011, at the mailing address on the form.
- If hand delivered, they must be delivered no later than the close of the public hearing on May 24, 2011, to:
Clerk of the Board
Board Meeting Room, as set forth in the opening paragraph

Date of this Notice: April 4, 2011

Working Together to Reduce Sanitation Flows

We all recognize that demands on the sanitation system are directly related to water use and that by reducing demand we can reduce the cost of maintaining the system. Therefore, a variety of options will be available to help customers reduce their water use. These programs are outlined below.

Rebates

Many sanitation district/zone operated by the Sonoma County Water Agency have a rebate program to help customers offset the costs of water conservation fixture replacement. The fixtures with rebates available range from dual flush toilets to high efficiency clothes washers to commercial cooling towers. To see if your service area qualifies or to get more information visit <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/sanitation-rebates/>.

Direct Install

A direct install toilet program is available to customers in most sanitation district/zone operated by the Sonoma County Water Agency. This program offers free direct installation of high efficiency toilets to replace high water use toilets at no cost to the property owner. More information is available at <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/direct-install/>.

Sonoma County Energy Independence Program

The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program allows property owners to finance certain water conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements through the property tax system. This program allows for installation of high efficiency toilets, smart irrigation controllers, re-circulating hot water pumps and many other improvements. Visit www.sonomacountyenergy.org for more information or call (707) 521-6200.

NOTE: IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED, ANY PROTEST MUST BE ON THIS FORM

WRITTEN PROTEST

I am the parcel owner of the property located at the address on the back of this form. I am submitting this form to protest the proposed sewer rate increase.

Additional Comments: _____

Use opposite side or attach additional sheets if needed.

Signature of Property Owner Required

Print Name

Fold Here First
.....

Place
Postage
Here

Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
c/o Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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Fold Here Second